Directions to Central Registration at North Decatur:
Park in the main hospital parking deck. From the main deck, take the pedestrian bridge, located on Level 3, into the hospital. Go down the escalator and follow the hallway to the main lobby. You will pass the Dogwood Gift Shop on your right. At the main hallway stay straight and follow the carpeted hallway to the door at the end of the hall. Go through the door and take a left. Follow this hall to the Central Registration area. Check in at the registration desk where you will be assigned a registrar and then escorted to your appropriate Imaging area.

Directions to Radiology at Hillandale:
Enter the hospital through the main entrance in front of the water fountain. Once you walk through the front door, Registration will be on your right. After registering, you’ll walk just a few steps down the hall to Imaging, which is located across from the ATM machine. Mammography and Dexta patients should report to the 5900 building, which is on the opposite side of the hospital from the main entrance and ER entrance. Registration is immediately on the left as you walk through the front door of the 5900 building.
What is Uterine Fibroid Embolization?

Uterine fibroids are noncancerous (benign) tumors that develop in the uterus (womb). The cause of uterine fibroids is unknown.

Fibroids need a large blood supply to make them grow. Embolization is a procedure that blocks or stops blood flow to one or more fibroids, causing them to shrink or completely go away.

Before Your Procedure

Always tell your doctor what medications you are taking, even drugs, supplements or herbs you bought without a prescription. Before your UFE, you may be asked to stop taking aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), warfarin (Coumadin), and any other medications that make it hard for your blood to clot.

You will be asked not to drink or eat anything after midnight before your procedure. On the day of your UFE, you will need to arrive 2 hours before your procedure so we can do the necessary lab work. Bring a list of any allergies you have. If you think you may be pregnant, inform your nurse or technologist before the procedure. A nurse will review your medical history, and an IV will be started in your arm or hand for any medications needed during the procedure.

During Your Procedure

UFE is not surgery but it’s done at a hospital. You will be given IV medicine to help you relax. The procedure doesn’t cause pain. After the insertion area is cleaned and covered with a sterile drape, the physician (an interventional radiologist who is specially trained to do this procedure) will make a tiny cut in the skin in your groin area. Next, the physician will pass a catheter (tiny tube) through an artery to your uterus.

When the catheter is in place, the physician will inject tiny particles, made of plastic or gelatin, into the catheter. These particles, about the size of grains of sand, will move through the catheter into the arteries that send blood to the fibroid. The particles will stop the blood flow to the fibroid, and over time the fibroid will shrink in size. Your nurse will monitor your vital signs and heart rhythm during the procedure.

After Your Procedure

You will be asked to lie flat for 4-6 hours after the procedure. Pelvic cramps are common for the first 24 hours and may last for up to 2 weeks. Your doctor will prescribe pain medication for you to take when needed.